

AGN. NO. _____

Relates to Agenda #45

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS

DECEMBER 15, 2015

ADVOCACY UPDATES IN CSEC LEADERSHIP TEAM REPORTS

On November 3, 2015, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) presented a report in response to a June 30, 2015 Board of Supervisors (Board) motion which instructed the CEO to review, analyze, and report back on several motions that recommended actions that could be implemented to serve commercially sexually exploited children (CSEC) in a more coordinated manner. Among the report's recommendations was a proposal to create the CSEC Integrated Leadership Team (Leadership Team), comprised of decision-makers from several County departments, that would develop and implement a CSEC strategic plan. The Departments of Children and Family Services, Probation, and Sheriff are the co-leads of the Leadership Team. The report further recommended that the Leadership Team meet monthly and issue reports every four months. The Leadership Team plans to issue its first report in February 2016.

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MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS
DECEMBER 15, 2015
PAGE 2

The Probation Department has awarded contracts to three community-based organizations to provide essential advocacy services to CSEC who are referred to the organizations by the County. These services include crisis response, assessment and referral, stabilization and engagement, support for participants testifying against their traffickers, and linkage to outside support services. While professional experience working with the target population is a condition of the contracts, CSEC advocacy is still an evolving field that is not governed by any formal educational or licensing requirements. As such, the Probation Department is requiring that all organizational staff successfully pass background and security clearances and that all advocates undergo extensive specialized training. The Probation Department also reserves the right to review and approve potential staff prior to referring any youth for services.

It would be of great value to the Board and the Leadership Team to collect and analyze data, not only to measure the effectiveness of these advocacy services, but also to measure outcomes in order to better serve this vulnerable population.

I THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS instruct the Leadership Team to include in its regular reports performance updates on the community-based organizations that have been selected to provide advocacy services to CSEC, including:

1. The number of referrals made to each organization;
2. The number of youth recovered and connected to services by each organization; and

**MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS
DECEMBER 15, 2015
PAGE 3**

3. Any performance issues and/or deficiencies that might pose challenges to fulfilling contractual obligations, along with recommendations for improvement.

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(EW/DJJ)